Indo-Sri Lanka joint patrolling

*114. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Sri Lanka have begun co-ordinated patrolling along the international Maritime border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also considering to make a joint patrolling with the Sri Lankan Navy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Indian Navy along with the Indian Coast Guard carried out regular patrols on the Indian side of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) in the Palk Bay. There is also an institutionalised mechanism of quarterly IMBL meeting between the representatives of the Sri Lankan Navy, the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard in addition to Operations Review Meeting held bi-annually alternately at Sri Lanka and India. However, there has been no coordinated patrol or joint patrol with the Sri Lankan Navy.

Increasing the share of power

*115. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals to increase the share of power from various sources like nuclear power and natural gas;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals on anvil, including terms and conditions, if any, and the countries associated with the above programme as on today;

(c) the details including the programme for generating energy from civil nuclear programme;

(d) whether there is any proposal to allow private sector/marketing forces in the above power generation programme especially civil nuclear power generation programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (e) To provide availability of over 1000 units of per capita electricity by year 2012 it had been estimated that need based capacity addition of more than 1,00,000 MW would be required during the period 2002—12.

Hydroelectricity is a clean and renewable source of energy. According to the National Electricity Policy, maximum emphasis would be laid on the full development of the feasible hydro potential in the country. Even with full development of the feasible hydro potential in the country, coal would necessarily continue to remain the primary fuel for meeting future electricity demand.

As per the Policy, for thermal power, economics of generation and supply of electricity would be the basis for choice of fuel from among the options available. Imported coal based thermal power stations, particularly at coastal locations, would be encouraged based on their economic viability.

Use of gas as a fuel for power generation would depend upon its availability at reasonable prices. Power sector consumes about 40% of the total gas produced in the country. New power generation capacity could come up based on indigenous gas findings, which can emerge as a major source of power generation if prices are reasonable. Imported LNG based power plants are also a potential source of electricity and the pace of their development would depend on their commercial viability.

Nuclear power is an established source of energy to meet base load demand, which contributed about 3% of the electricity generated in 2004-05.

The current nuclear power capacity in the country is 3310 MW. Eight nuclear power reactors with a total capacity of 3970 MW are presently under construction and on completion of these reactors progressively the nuclear power capacity in the country will increase to 7280 MW by end of XI plan. The work on these projects is progressing as per schedule.

The Government has recently accorded in principle approval for setting of nuclear power stations of 6800 MW at four sites. These are Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu, Jaitapur in Maharashtra, Kakrapar in Gujarat and Rawatbhata in Rajasthan. The reactors at Rawatbhata and Kakrapar are based on indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor design. The reactors at Kudankulam and Jaitapur are based on reactors to be set up in cooperation with foreign countries. Preliminary work in connection with detailed site evaluation is being taken up at these sites. This will be followed up with more power reactors so as to reach a capacity of 20000 MW by the year 2020.

The recent understanding reached with USA for cooperation in civilian nuclear power programme opens up the possibilities of setting up of additioinal nuclear power reactors based on foreign cooperation. The

domestic uranium can support a capacity of 10,000 MW out of which about half has already been tied up. Therefore any private sector participation in nuclear power can only be on the basis of external additionality, consistent with national and international framework.

The Electricity Act, 2003 creates a liberal framework for development of the electricity industry, promoting competition therein, protecting interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalization of electricity tariff, ensuring transparent policies regarding subsidies, constitution of Regulatory Commission and establishment of Appellate Tribunal. The Act reduces entry barriers in different segments of power supply industry and promotes competition and in turn efficiency improvements.

Generation has been delicensed by the Act. Transmission, distribution and trading are licensed activities and the license is granted by the appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission. The Electricity Act, 2003 does not discriminate between Private and Public Sector in any of these areas. The Act provides for non-discriminatory open access in transmission from the very outset. Open access in distribution is to be introduced by the SERCs in phases.

Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the Appropriate Commission shall adopt the tariff if such tariff has been determined through transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government. Central Government has issued the guidelines for competitive bidding for determinaion of tariff for procurement of power by distribution licensees. It is expected to facilitate private sector participation in generaion.

The Act also provides for multiple distribution licenses in same area through their own distribution system. Central Government has already notified the additional requirements for this purpose as stipulated in the Act.

Under the Electricity Act, 2003 captive power plants, including group captive, have been freely permitted.

Ministry of Power is facilitating financial closure of generation projects. An Inter-Institutional Group (IIG) comprising senior representatives from the Financial Institutions and Ministry of Power has been constituted to focus on fast track power projects which could achieve early financial closure. Thirteen private power projects having a total capacity of about

4477 MW has since achieved financial closure out of which one project of 113.2 MW has already been commissioned.

Scheme for BPL population

*116. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all Centrally Sponsored Schemes are targeted for the BPL population;

(b) if not, then which are the targeted schemes and which are untargeted; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to universalize any of the targeted schemes?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Ministery of Rural Development is implementing a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development in the country. The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) provides for self employment and the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) provides shelter to the shelterless rural poor families. These schemes are being implemented especially for BPL families living in the rural areas of the country. There is also a provision under SGSY that upto a maximum of 30% members of a Self Help Group may be taken from families marginally above the poverty line living contiguously with BPL families if they are acceptable to the BPL members of the Group. But the APL members of the Group will not the eligible for the subsidy under the Scheme. Other Rural Development Programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for rural connectivity, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)/Swajaldhara and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP)/Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) aim at development of rural infrastructure and rural amenities. Under TSC, however, financial incentive is available only to the BPL households. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) are area development programmes which are implemented on watershed basis.

2. The Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is a wage empoyment programme which is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual and unskilled work in and